

## **Capitol Planning Commission Minutes**

April 16th, 2014

Knudsen Conference Room, Jessie Parker Building  
(1:00 pm – 1:45 pm)

### **Members Present:**

William Dikis, Chair	Scott Weiser, Vice-Chair
Janet Phipps, Director	Elizabeth Isaacson
Matt Anderson	Allison Dorr Kleis
Carol Grant	

### **Members Absent:**

Representative Dan Kelley	Representative Ralph Watts
Senator Matt McCoy	Senator Charles Schneider

### **Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:**

Lon Anderson, DAS	Charlee Cross, DAS/GSE
Doug Woodley, DAS/GSE	Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE
Tim Ryburn, DAS/GSE	Nancy Williams, DAS/GSE
Barb Bendon, DAS/GSE	Emily Narayan, DAS/GSE
Ben Brackett, DAS/GSE	

### **Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting**

Mark Willemssen, Legislature  
Scotney Fenton, RDG Planning & Design

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chair Bill Dikis, followed by roll call and introductions.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Scott Weiser made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Elizabeth Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 8th, 2014 Meeting**

Chair Bill Dikis reviewed the following action items from the January minutes:

1. Master Plan Committee: develop an organized method for recognizing master plan changes over time.
2. Site Features Committee: Continue discussion on Monumental Journey and review portions of the master plan.
3. Annual Report: Senator McCoy invited Chair Bill Dikis to present discussion on Deferred Maintenance as well as the Annual Report itself to the Transportation Infrastructure and Capitals Sub-Committee of the appropriations committee. Chair Bill Dikis and Vice-Chair Scott Weiser also held several meetings with the leadership in the Senate and the House, which went well. The meeting request to meet with the Governor and his staff did not happen as planned – will put on agenda for future years.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Scott Weiser made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Elizabeth Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Committee Update**

### ***Master Plan Committee***

The Master Plan Committee met in March to assemble a format for evaluating the Master Plan and updating it on an annual basis. Free form commentary is provided to offer observations concerning any aspect of the Master Plan. There will be opportunities to offer and adopt amendments to the Master Plan. Chair Dikis noted that the current Master Plan called for removal of parking lots from the Capitol Complex that may not be well received by the Legislature. The Commission might want to entertain the possibility of an alternative that could become an amendment to the Master Plan. Lots 13, 14, and 19 have a total of 663 parking spaces, parts of which are reserved for ADA parking, the Legislative Session, and a portion is assigned to Legislative officers. If we chose to modify the Master Plan to include additional parking spaces, it is estimated that 960 spaces will be created on the central campus and still permit a highly landscaped setting with green spaces between the major streets, automobiles, and the Capitol Building. This will be a discussion topic at the next meeting. Vice Chair Scott Weiser said Chair Dikis has done a great job researching this and thinks this could be done rapidly and get approved by the Legislature. Director Janet Phipps asked if there had been discussion regarding proportion of green space to concrete regarding aesthetics of the Capitol Complex to ensure we maintain some proportion. Chair Dikis said he's not aware of any discussion on identified proportion.

Hometown Pride: Discussions have occurred with Gerry Schnepf, Director Keep Iowa Beautiful who is promoting a program called Hometown Pride Partnership for the four neighborhoods around the Capitol Complex. The East Village isn't committed yet but is positive. The Capitol East and MLK neighborhoods are actively pursuing fundraising efforts. At this point, Capitol North neighborhood has declined to participate. The Partnership is interested in having a Commission volunteer to serve on the steering committee. Work will not begin until June at the earliest, as they are still in the fundraising and organizing stages. Chair Dikis said his understanding is this does not involved any money coming from the state. Matt Anderson was asked to represent the Capitol Complex Commission.

### ***Site Features Committee***

Carol Grant said the Site Features Committee has met and reviewed the existing Site Features policy and application as requested by Chair Bill Dikis at the January meeting. Ms. Grant noted the Committee decided to undertake a more in-depth review of the policy and application to simplify and remove redundancy. Recommendations will be provided to the Commission by the July meeting.

Monumental Journey Status: As part of the Committee work, Dave Schmitz with the Department of Cultural Affairs researched the durability of fiberglass. His research indicated fiberglass had been used extensively and without problem, provided certain items were addressed (paint selection, internal framework material selection, water runoff control). The artist has not yet visited Des Moines but is expected to arrive within the next couple of weeks. There is at least one other site in Des Moines that is being considered for the sculpture placement. More information may be provided at the July meeting. Chair Dikis noted there is a standing request for Jessica Rowe to make a presentation related to mass, scale, size, location, and proximity to the Judicial Building. Based upon the information provided by Dave Schmitz, Chair Dikis noted that additional questions should be asked, such as the framework that supports the structure which is highly recommended to be stainless steel, and the methodology of the material itself and the coatings.

Carol Grant said it has brought to her attention that a citizen has concerns regarding the disposition of the "Cosmic Seed" sculpture in light of potential renovations to the Wallace Building. The Site Features Committee will review the request. Director Janet Phipps asked if we ever run into issues with covenants with sculpture and placement. Carol said they will look into it.

## **Staff Reports/Project Updates**

### ***Legislative Update***

Lon Anderson noted the infrastructure budget is still undecided at this point. The Senate chose to remove all Major Maintenance funding. The House responded by allocating \$37.3 million for Major Maintenance funding. Major Maintenance funding language from last year's appropriation bill allocated \$14 million for FY15. No funding was recommended in the out-years for Fleet, Historical, or Wallace. It appears the Legislature will wait until next January and after the November election to deal with multiple year funding. Matt Anderson asked if some of the study dollars are moving forward. Lon said the Historical Building was appropriated funding last year for planning purposes. The intent is to engage a museum consultant to provide recommendations regarding use of space, appearance, etc. Elizabeth Isaacson asked if the Wallace Building funding has been finalized. Lon said there is disagreement in both legislative chambers regarding the Wallace Building. Discussions have occurred, but there is no consensus and funds will not be appropriated until consensus is achieved. Lon advised Commission members to express their ideas regarding the Wallace Building to the Governor and his staff. Chair Bill Dikis asked Jennifer Moehlmann if there is an Executive Summary regarding the recent reports on the Wallace Building. Jennifer said she is not aware of a summary but will research and provide a copy to the Commission of what is available.

### ***Construction Update***

#### ***Row House***

Charlee Cross reported that the Row House project is complete with the exception of a small strip of sod remaining to be laid. This will occur in early May, weather permitting.

#### ***Iowa Building***

Charlee Cross reported that the Iowa Building demolition project has been completed. Final grading was delayed due to the weather and the seeding will be completed soon.

#### ***Historical Building***

Charlee Cross reported that the final granite repair will begin Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and is expected to be completed within four weeks. The repair had postponed due to the weather and is expected to be completed this spring. Staff is currently working with the museum consultant on the programming and planning effort that Lon Anderson referred to in his report. Chair Dikis asked if the goal is to be done by October. Charlee confirmed the October goal.

#### ***Hoover Building***

Charlee Cross reported that contractors are scheduled to be back on site April 28th to continue exterior cleaning and joint re-caulking. They will start on the east side of the building and are expected to be done on or about May 20<sup>th</sup>. She added that the west side walkway will have to be redone and the project is expected to be completed in September.

#### ***Capitol Lightning Project***

Charlee Cross reported the project is complete except for some concrete sidewalk replacement, which is scheduled to begin after the Legislature adjourns.

#### ***B-Cycle Station***

Jennifer Moehlmann reported that an agreement for the B-Cycle station had been signed. The B-Cycle Station will be located in the parking lot north of the Lucas Building. Work is expected to begin in the summer.

### *Fleet Relocation*

Chair Dikis said there is no progress regarding relocating the Fleet Building. However, the Commission will continue its relocations efforts.

### ***Capitol Complex Events***

Refer to handout.

### **Other Business**

Vice-Chair Scott Weiser noted there had been some discussion regarding partnering with gardening organizations for beautification of the Capitol Complex grounds. Tim Ryburn said he would love to participate and that they have reached out to local garden clubs several times but what has happened historically is that a group would get started with a project for a couple of weeks but not maintain the flower beds long-term. Chair Bill Dikis asked if it would help to have a memorandum of understanding outlining the responsibilities. Tim Ryburn responded they had MOUs in the past. Volunteers could be recognized by nomination for the Governor's Volunteer Awards. Carol Grant will approach the Polk County Master Gardeners to see if they would be interested.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

### *Upcoming Meeting:*

July 16, 2014

October 15, 2014